[Sry. Annie Mascarene]

house with its establishments, etc., etc. The representatives of the people who have to stand and serve the cause of those who live in misery and in needs and necessities.—

Sri. A. K. George: One question, did the hon. Member ever protest?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Sri. A. K. George: Did she ever protest?

Sry. Annie Mascarene: I yield not to him.

Sir, the present situation that is demanding the attention of the Ministert and leaders of society and politics is not the question of this sor, but a question of the misery of the people, the poverty of the people. We are not able to feed and clothe the masses. We have no hope of self-sufficiency The Ministers must live a life as the country demands, as the country can afford. As I have experienced, they can live with lesser amount than the amount that they are actually receiving as Ministers today. After visiting the hospitals and after visiting the different parts of the State, I see that there is no food for the masses and there is nothing to wear and nobody to help the poor. We have to consider the cause of masses first. We have to consider the position of the patients in the hospitals, etc. Is it before we can consider these that we should make the Ministers more comfortable? If the salaries of the Ministers are not sufficient, I heard some of the speakers say, that they are prone to be corrupt. Mr. Speaker, corruption is a quality which will exercise itself, even if you give them Rs. 1,000. That is a quality which is inherent in itself that will exercise itself. Therefore it is not the comfort of the Ministers that should receive our attention. It is with regard to their honesty and their service that we should give our attention and as Members of the House we should give them necessary help and give them timely advice and help to go straight in the path of duty. What we have got to do and instead of saying that their salary should be raised, it is our duty as Members of this House and as representatives of the people to help the Ministers and to advise them and to show them they must live with the emoluments that they now get and that they should not expect more from the poor.

Sir, as a Member of the Legislature and as a Member of the once-upon a time Cabinet.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The House rose for lunch at 1 p.m. and re-assembled at 2 p.m. with Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

Point of Order *re*-Answers to Unstarred Questions.

2 p. m.

Sri. P. S. Nataraja Pillai: Sir, I want to raise a point of order. The usual practice here is that as soon as the starred questions are answered, the answers to the unstarred questions are to be placed on the table. Today it was not done. We have raised this question more than once here. I would like you to give directions to the office to make the answers available punctually.

Mr. Speaker: If the answers are not already placed on the table, I will ask the hon. Minister in charge to place them on the Table as soon as possible.

Sri. P. S. Nataraja Pillai: But the difficulty is this. We do not know when they are available and when not.

Sri. C. Kesavan: It is usually placed on the table punctually. But today the clerk happened to take them back to the office.

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Sry. Annie Mascarene : Before, I go on with my speech, I also wish to raise a point of order, with regard to the answer made by the Chief Minister. On the 17th I was on the look out for the answers for the day. They have not come to me as yet. We are in need of these answers.

Sri. C. Kesavan : May I inform the hon. Member that they were placed on the table in the afternoon ?

Sry. Annie Mascarene : Sir, I looked into them, and found that of the questions posted for the day, only 38 were answered.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Minister informs us that all the answers were placed. I would request the hon. Member to look into the matter once again.

Sry. Annie Mascarene : I asked the officers to give me the answers and they gave me answers for only 38 questions. That is the honest truth.

Sri. C. Kesavan : 38 questions? May I know whether you mean starred questions or unstarred questions?

Sry. Annie Mascarene : Starred questions, please.

Sri. C. Kesavan : Answers to all starred questions have been placed on the table.

Sry. Annie Mascarene : I am still saying that they have not come to me as yet. Well, I hope I will meet with better success next time.

The Travancore-Cochin Payment of Salaries and Allowances Bill—(*Cont.*)

Clause 3

Sry. Annie Mascarene : Well, I was dealing with the salaries of the Ministers. I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Members of this House to the way in which I spent my salary when I was a Minister. Though I was an unmarried person, I was living with three members of my family, plus two servants and I was entertaining guests. Yet I was able to put by Rs. 500 every month and deposit with the Imperial Bank of India. If any hon. Member here wants to verify the truth, my accounts are at his disposal. I was able to dress well, I was able to eat well and see that those who were attached to me also got on well. And I was on circuit almost every day of my tenure of office. Of course, I could not eat much more as Minister than I used to before, I could not wear more clothes; all the necessities were just the same as before. But I can tell the Members here that I lived more comfortably and more decently than I used to do, and I was able to entertain guests which I would not otherwise have been able to do. And with all these expenses, I was able to put by Rs. 500 every month, which would have gone to meet the expenditure of a married man. If any Member is anxious he can verify the accounts.

But it is not the luxury of the Ministers, it is the need, the comfort, the daily necessities of the man-in-the-street that we are worried with. His neck is already broken with the burden of supporting five Ministers of the State. Calculating the expenses and cost of maintaining a Minister,—I was able to go through the accounts as a Minister—they would come to Rs. 3,000 a month, with all the Personal Clerks, and Private Secretaries and Peons and all the other paraphernalia of a Minister. And that was one of the reasons why I resigned from the Ministry. Four of us got off on that account.

Sri. C. Kesavan : May I know from the hon. Member whether it was because of the luxurious life that the hon. Member was forced to live that the hon. Member resigned?

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